

**Greeting H.E Mr. Maheswarsingh Khemloliva Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius to the Russian Federation to Participants the International Business Forum “Russia-Africa Partnership for Development”.**



**H.E Mr. Maheswarsingh Khemloliva  
Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius to the Russian Federation**

I am honored to be associated to the International Business Forum “Russia-Africa Partnership for Development”. I find the conference agenda very relevant to today’s current concern such as food security and sustainable development. I wish to recall that Mauritius and Russia have 51 years of diplomatic relations, just 5 days after attaining independence on 17 March 1968, the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations with Mauritius.

When we attained independence, Mauritius was a mono-crop economy, 100% reliant on the sugar cane sector. In 1970, the Export Processing Zone was created which has paved the way for the development of clothing and light manufacturing sectors. Simultaneously, the Government created an ambitious programme, for the development of the tourism industry.

Mauritius is now heading towards a service-oriented and innovation-driven economy. The financial services sector is emerging as one of the most important contributors to the Mauritian economy. Mauritius is a safe, trusted and secure tourism and business destination as well as a reputed International Financial Centre.

Mauritius is offering a very conducive business environment to investors. Mauritius is ranked first in Africa on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index. Mauritius also tops the African continent on key international benchmarks namely the Heritage Foundation Index of Economic Freedom, the Forbes Survey

of Best Countries for Business, the Democracy Index, and the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance amongst others. The fiscal regime is among the most globally competitive ones with the personal and corporate tax harmonized at a low rate of 15% whereas Export Oriented Manufacturers corporate tax rate is of 3%.

Mauritius also has an ambitious “Mauritius Africa Strategy” and is partnering with various African countries for sustainable development which will guarantee a brighter future for African people. I invite the Russian Business Community to join us in our dream for a prosperous Africa.

On the other hand, the Government of Mauritius is also committed to offer the best support to investors with different schemes, cutting across different sectors from manufacturing, agriculture, real estate to new emerging sectors such as Blockchain Technology and Artificial Intelligence.

I wish the Conference delegates fruitful discussions. I also look forward to welcome you at the Mauritius Embassy to discuss prospects for trade and investment with Mauritius.